

VETERANS' SMALL BUSINESS ASSISTANCE AND SERVICEMEMBERS PROTECTION ACT OF 2009

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to support H.R. 3949, which was on the floor of the House today. I was delayed in coming to Washington because I was meeting with my union members to talk about jobs. Yet I am excited about this legislation that Chairman FILNER has brought to the floor, and I thank him for his leadership, which involves protecting and providing for servicemembers. There are currently 25 million veterans—1,630,000 in Texas with 34,000 veterans living in my community.

I am very proud that he put into the bill my vision impairment bill, which will provide for scholarships to help train those who can work with the visually impaired service veterans, many of whom have suffered from the IED explosions in Afghanistan and Iraq.

It would also protect parents who can be buried with their children. It will keep servicemembers from being evicted or from being foreclosed on when they're serving in Iraq and Afghanistan. Then of course it will provide for small businesses of veterans preferred to be on the list so that they can obtain businesses or business opportunities in the United States Government.

This is very important for the upcoming Veterans Day. We must celebrate our veterans, and I am very grateful that my vision impaired bill is in this bill, H.R. 3949.

RECOGNIZING NOVEMBER AS AMERICAN DIABETES MONTH

(Mr. PAULSEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to call attention to November as American Diabetes Month.

Today, 24 million Americans have diabetes, and in this 1 minute that it takes me to give this speech, three more Americans will be diagnosed. The rate of diabetes cases is definitely on the rise, and it is becoming more severe. Based on our current trends, one out of every three children will eventually suffer from diabetes. Unlike cancer, heart disease and strokes, the death rate due to complications from diabetes has actually increased.

Diabetes not only exacts great personal harm; it imposes financial harm as well. Diabetes in the United States costs \$174 billion annually, and the cost of caring for someone with diabetes accounts for \$1 out of every \$5 in total health care costs.

Changing this trend begins with raising awareness about diabetes. So, Mr. Speaker, let's all commit to doing more to educate Americans on the seriousness of this disease.

THE PELOSI HEALTH CARE BILL

(Mr. BURTON of Indiana asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, this is the Pelosi health care bill: 1,990 pages. Nobody in this place has even come close to reading it. In addition to that, it costs \$2.25 million per word. That's per word. There are almost 3,500 "shalls" in there, and a "shall" is a mandate that Congress do something. Nobody has read this thing. It's going to cost all this money.

Members of Congress can exempt themselves from being involved in the public option. Every time you go to a town hall meeting, the American people say, Are you guys going to be included? Well, this bill says you don't have to be included if you're a Member of Congress because we're more important than the guy on the street.

You know, this is just a terrible, terrible bill; and the people of this country don't want it passed. I've had five town hall meetings, and the people overwhelmingly are opposed to this thing. They want us to solve the problems of health care. They want us to do it in a responsible way, but they certainly don't want this thing, and this doesn't even include the manager's amendment. This is a bad bill, and it should be defeated.

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SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

OCTOBER HAS BEEN THE DEADLIEST MONTH FOR U.S. TROOPS IN AFGHANISTAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I stood up in the House in late July and said the following words, "Five American soldiers have been killed in Afghanistan this week. That brings the death toll in July to 31, making this the deadliest month for our troops since the conflict in Afghanistan began."

Tragically, Mr. Speaker, July didn't hold the record for long. It was quickly replaced by August as the deadliest month. Now, 55 of our troops have died in October, making this the deadliest month yet.

We can't blame the troops for this, of course. They continue to fight with tremendous skill and with bravery. They do everything our Nation asks of them.

So what's to blame? It's our strategy. It's a strategy which has relied almost exclusively on military action for over 8 years while ignoring the critically

important political, economic, and cultural aspects of the conflict. Yet President Obama is now being urged to double down on the military-only policy that has failed us and send in another 40,000 troops.

If we go down that road, what can the American people expect? They can expect higher troop levels, higher casualty rates, and many years of war that can end up costing us over a trillion dollars. Even if we do all that, the odds will still be stacked against us. That's not a strategy for success, Mr. Speaker. I think we can do better.

If we want to succeed in Afghanistan, we must change the way we do business there. Instead of fighting extremists after they have gotten a foothold, let's invest our resources on what would prevent violent extremism from taking root in the first place. That includes economic development, jobs, reconstruction, education, health care, civil affairs, and diplomacy. All would help stabilize Afghanistan.

Mr. Speaker, a serious commitment to a civilian surge of experts and aid workers to help the Afghan people develop their economy would make a huge difference over there. We must also develop a much better set of rigorous metrics to evaluate progress and report the results to the American people. Then we could develop an exit strategy. We could send the message that our involvement in Afghanistan is not open-ended.

It would also help to reassure the Afghan people that we have no intention of occupying their land, because right now too many Afghan citizens see America as an occupying force. That, more than anything else, Mr. Speaker, is fueling anti-Americanism and the insurgency. We must also do everything we can to assure a credible central government in Kabul to help with humanitarian and other efforts to improve the lives of the Afghan people. These are just some of the elements of smart security that we need to use in Afghanistan.

I have offered a comprehensive strategy for smart security in House Resolution 363, because I firmly believe that it would be a blueprint for victory against extremism in Afghanistan and other parts of the world. Mr. Speaker, by shifting from military power only to smart power, we can help Afghanistan to build a stable and functioning State. We can save the lives of our troops, and we can go a long way toward defeating the extremists who threaten America and the world.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. JONES addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)